

## THE COMPLETE WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

# Vivid Description of Droop Mountain Battle Reprinted From Pen of Andrew Price

## Historic Battlefield Is Converted Into State Park

On a bleak day last November, State and National officials together with a large group of State citizens gathered at the Droop Mountain battlefield in Pocahontas County—72 years after Union forces routed the Confederate cavalry from the field—to dedicate the site of that conflict as a State park.

Private George Alderson of the 14th Virginia Cavalry went to the celebration from the hills of Nicholas County to accept the new State park as a memorial to his comrades who fell there. The boys in blue were absent. The last member of the G. A. R. in the Pocahontas section died last March so a World War veteran accepted the flag in their behalf.

This dedication—and renewed interest in the site together with its historical background—brings to mind the colorful description of the famous Droop Mountain encounter as chronicled by the late Andrew Price, famed State newspaperman and one of the first honored with a place in the West Virginia Publishers' Hall of Fame. Price was for many years editor of the Pocahontas Times, now edited by his brother, Cal Price.

His narrative of the battle follows:

The campaign in 1863, in West Virginia, on the Federal side, was under the command of Gen. W. W. Averell, of the Fourth Separate Brigade. He had at his disposal some five thousand troops and he was opposed to an army of about the same strength. The campaign in the mountains has been ignored by historians generally, the broken country of high hills and narrow valleys prevented the unveiling of large battles of troops, but it was no less important than the vast armies on the Redwater plain, for West Virginia was a barrier between the North and the South that the government must hold at all hazards. The Federal forces had met with disaster until Averell took charge in the spring of 1863. He was a New Yorker, a West Pointer, a cavalryman and a tactician. He had won his spurs by leading the Illinois Cavalry. He was a man of fine physique and a great deal of energy. He was a man of fine physique and a great deal of energy. He was a man of fine physique and a great deal of energy.

When he came to West Virginia, the first thing he did was to inspect the country upon horse and foot. He was a man of fine physique and a great deal of energy. He was a man of fine physique and a great deal of energy. He was a man of fine physique and a great deal of energy.

thirty-four miles from Lewisburg and that if he drove his enemy forward that day that they would get by Lewisburg before Duffie would have arrived from Kanawha.

On Thursday then about all that was done was to try to go around the Confederates and cut them off from the mountain, but Jackson beat them to it and left the Levels to be occupied by Averell.

### Stays With Confederates

Averell made his headquarters camp along the hill on the western edge of the Levels about where Gen. M. J. McNeal, of the Confederate veterans, resides. Averell, himself, was the guest of Col. Paul McNeal that night, and the whole community was Confederate, but all who met him were charmed by him.

When the Levels was a lake Droop Mountain was the dam. The Greenbrier forced a passage through along the extreme eastern side and still plunges through the pass. Last summer the road commission blocked this road just as the army did in '63, and we who desired to march south had to either go down the river road on the right or to the left and climb the ridge and swing round the circle by way of Locoella and climb up the road that intersects the pike on top of the mountain back of the battlefield. They call these Hobson Choice detours these days.

### Averell Detoured

So Averell detoured. Like "Stone wall" Jackson, he was an early riser, and he got his troops into position before daylight. Here is the way he laid out his attack.

He sent the 14th Pennsylvania to the left and they took up their stand near the Locust Creek bridge and appeared to be ready to charge up the mountain. Keeper's battery was placed on the high ground above Beard's mill and commenced to fire on the batteries on top of the mountain. Several families living in the low place formed by Locust creek stayed there all day under the artillery fire. Ewing's battery was placed to the left, pike between Millboro and the foot of Droop Mountain. Gibson's battalion and the 10th West Virginia were held in or near Millboro on the pike. The 2nd, 3rd, and 8th West Virginia regiments were placed to the right of the pike about the Rentek place, and of sight of the Confederates on top of the mountain. The 24th Ohio Volunteer Infantry and one company of Ohio 14th Infantry, in all, 125 men, were sent by the line that night. In the night by lanterns, and when they started down the mountain they did not reach the battlefield until 1:45 a. m. In the morning a great deal of cannon firing was heard.



Spanish Valley  
Clover Lick  
Pocahontas County

IMPORTANT SERVICES OF THE STATE GUARDS TO  
THE UNION

Chapter 11

These soldiers were not pensioned or rewarded like the rest of the army. Yet his services were of great peril and importance. They were in service about fourteen months.

In April 1864 the state guards were organized and took charge of the danger zone in West Virginia and in May 1864 the entire force of the regular army of West Virginia was on the move into Virginia to report to General Hunter at Staunton. From that time to the end of the war this regular army fought east of the mountains.

The policy of West Virginia during the last year of the war was given over entirely to the state guards. Yet they have been ignored. Most of the southern states have taken very good care of destitute southern veterans. But very few of these from Pocahontas ever received a pension.

These guards had all the standing of regular sworn defenders wore a uniform, and were authorized by law to lay down their lives for the Union.

Pocahontas County - State Guards - Adjustant or mustering officers;

Clatsborne Pierson - Comm. August 8, 1861

John Sharp - Commissioned September 30, 1863

Captain Samuel Young's company

compiled from roll dated February 14, 1865

Captain Samuel Young - commissioned as Captain August 29, 1864

Enlisted Men

George W. Arbuckle - Sergeant

John L. Armstrong - Sergeant

James H. Adkison (this name probably should be Adkison)

John H. Bussard (now spelled Bussard)

James S. Dilley  
Little Chest Mountain

its murky way they scattered. All sense of direction was lost. The soldiers were cold, lost and bewildered. They threw away their guns and engaged in a mad scramble to get out. Most of them found their way back to Camp Bartow or to Lee's camp, but it was several days before they were in shape to present a warlike front.

The attack of September 14, on Elkwater had failed because the mountains took a hand in it.

On the next day, Lee sent down from his Valley Mountain Camp a reconnoitering party under the command of Major John A. Washington. This party was sent to see if Loring had gotten across Cheat with his troops. They got to near the Federal breastworks and were fired upon. Major Washington was killed.

Lee evidently decided not to attack the Federals at either Elkwater or White Top. Anyway there was no more fighting that year on the Randolph and Pocahontas lines.

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Here is a bit of history not found in any of the dispatches. It was told to Andrew Price when he taught school at Big Springs on the site of Lee's camp. Told by an eye witness: The summer of 1861 terminated in one of the biggest rains that ever fell in these mountains and produced one of the biggest floods ever known in these streams. This downpour lasted all night and at daybreak next morning both armies, Federal and Confederate had broken camp in the night and both were in headlong retreat.

The Confederates fled south up Old Field Fork of Elk and cut a timber barricade at Spring Fork at the foot of Elk Mountain (This barricade played a part in other skirmishes later.)

The Federals retreated down Tygart's Valley turned east at Huttonsville and marched to Bartow and fought the battles at Bartow and Top Allegheny.

Lee having restricted his army went to Richmond. When he found his summer work reduced to nothing by this great mishap in the jungle, he was inclined to believe the report that the mountain guide had misled his troops and lost them in the wilderness, and for a time it looked as if a certain young Pocahontas County man, who had

James S. Diller  
Little Cheat Mountain

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S. Dilley  
Cheat Mountain

undertaken to guide them, would be hanged. But Lee must have learned that he had been at fault for ordering them to penetrate the Cheat thicket in the night for nobody was executed. (I have not been able to learn who the guide was). This material was taken from W. Va. Blue Book 1928 - from articles by Andrew Price.

When the spruce timber was cut from Cheat Mountain many years after the war, muskets, haversacks, and other articles were found where the army had cast them aside in their escape from the jungle.

In 1927 when the new highway over Middle and Valley Mountains (Seneca Trail) was being graded as Route 24, a great army dump pile was uncovered and all sorts of war trophies ranging from muskets to parts of cannons were found. These were left by Lee's first command in the Civil War.

Places in Pocahontas that were Lee's headquarters in 1861:

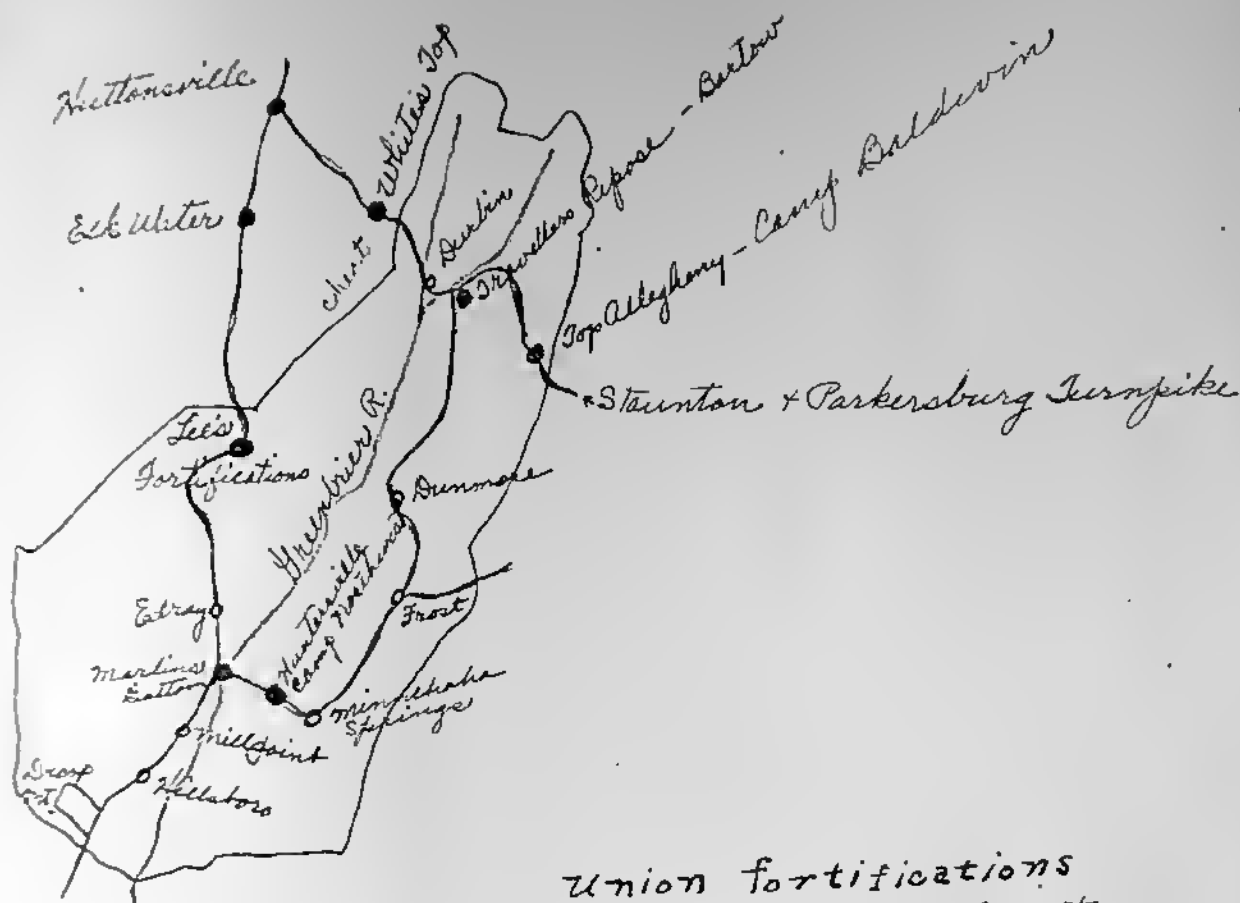
1. Valley and Middle Mountains
2. Meadow Bluff on Sept. 24.
3. Tall House at Marlins Bottom
4. At Sewell Mountain on Oct. 20.

During the year 1861 all of Lee's activities were confined to W. Va. At Richard McNeel's farm near Mill Point, Mrs. McNeel, a Confederate sympathizer, prepared a fine meal but Lee refused to eat it for fear of poison.

#### Lee's Horse

When Lee was in the Greenbrier Valley, in 1861, he came across the best horse he had ever seen, the gray gelding, Traveler. Foaled in the Little Levels of Pocahontas and developed in the Big Levels of Greenbrier Co. No better horse ever set foot to the race, though this region has produced its thousands like unto the far famed Traveler. (Pocahontas Times).

James S. Miller  
 Cover Tick, W. Va.  
 Feb. 24, 1940



Union Fortifications  
 In Randolph County  
 at  
 Huttonsville  
 Elk Water  
 Whites Top Shavers Cheat

Confederate Fortifications  
 In Pocahontas County  
 Travelers Rest - Camp Butler  
 Top of Allegany - Camp Baldwin  
 Huttonsville - Camp Northcutt  
 Martins Bottom -  
 Valley & Middle Mountain



- Confederate Fortifications
- Federal Fortifications



SOLDIERS

Andrew Wanless ----- 10th West Virginia Infantry  
Nelson Wanless ----- " " " "  
Armenius Buzzard ----- " " " "  
Joseph Moore ----- " " " "  
David Moore ----- " " " "  
Andrew Adkinson ----- " " " "  
William McCarty ----- Died 1861  
George Wagner ----- " " " "  
James Ayler ----- " " " "  
David Grimes ----- Died Buchanan  
James Johnson ----- " " " "  
John C. Curry -----  
Thomas Akers  
William Cutlip  
Jeremiah Sharp Died in service  
Andrew Kellison  
James Kee Died at Winchester Virginia  
William Duncan  
Hilton Sharp  
Brown Arbogast  
George Arbogast Died in service  
John Wanless  
Charles Arbogast Died in service  
William Hennison  
E. Clark Grimes  
Abram Sharp  
Peter Beverage  
William Duffield - Died during war  
Clark Kellison - Served under Sheridan, was also detached service  
on the western plains after the war. He received  
his discharge just in time to escape the Custer  
massacre.  
William Gay - Escaped from the army below Richmond with 6 others  
made his way home to Stony Creel.  
William Rives Moore - Died at Wheeling during the war  
William Hudson Went to Mo.  
David Hudson After the war  
Bernard Sharp - Shot through hips. Died at Duncan's Lane  
Henry Sharp - Wounded near William Gibsons on Elk. Died  
Isaac Sharp - Shot by a scouting party near his home.  
William Rogers  
John Phillips - 6th West Virginian killed at Bulltown in Braxton Co.  
Mark Grimes  
Hop Wanless - 6th West Virginia Infantry  
E. Arbogast " " " "  
Elias Algerman " " " "  
Alfred McCoy  
Frank Grimes  
George Luffield  
Calvin Kelly  
Carl Kelly  
William Kelly  
Elias Kelly  
Peter Grimes  
Elias Grimes  
Elias Grimes

Ed Bowers  
Peter M. McCarty  
Alfred Gay  
Erison Hannah  
William Bucher  
George Moore  
John Tyler  
James Duncan  
Washington Moore  
George Mellison  
John Silva  
Register Moore  
Francis Byrd  
James Pyles  
Ed Bowers

Taken from History of Pocahontas W. T. Price  
" " List in Pocahontas Times  
" " By Peter McCarty  
" " A Scout in Youngs Co.  
" " West Virginia Blue Book - 1928

I had already sent in  
C1 3rd West Virginia Cavalry  
Captain Young's Co. of Scouts  
Captain Allen's Co. of Scouts

Two of the sons of Thomas Erinson were Cavalrymen, and took part in  
the battle of Droop Mountain but I have not been able to get their  
name.

James H. McCarty  
Alfred Day  
Erlson Hannah  
Allen Bucher  
George Moore  
John Tyler  
James Duncan  
Washington Moore  
George Kellison  
John Silva  
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Francis Byrd  
James Fyles  
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Martha S. Miller  
Clover Lick, W. Va.

POCAHONTAS COUNTY - CHAPTER 4 - Section 4b - 3

Confederate Soldiers of Pocahontas

Arbogast, Jacob - killed at Fort Donelson

Arbogast, Washington - died in 1864 from wounds received at Spottsylvania.

Auldridge, John - killed at Gettysburg

Auldridge, Allen - Given an honorable discharge. Their father killed for being a Confederate sympathizer.

Ashford, Claburn

Arbogast, J. C. - Captain of the Greenbank company of 31st Va. Infantry

Arbuegh, George -

Arbaugh, James

Arbaugh, John A. Died in 1861 at the Minnehaha Springs

Buzzard, Jackson - Died in battle of Dry Creek

Beverage, Levi (

Beverage, Joseph (These were brothers and all returned from the war.)

Beverage, Jacob (

Beard, John J. Wounded

Beard, Joel Early - Died in service.

Beard, Charles Woods - returned

Beard, Edwin C. - - -

Beard, Moffett - - -

Beard, Wallace Throck - - -

Beard, Wallace Throck - - -

Beard, John G - - -

Barnside, James - - -

Beard, Adam M. - - - died in battle

Martha S. Dilley  
Clover Lick, W. Va.

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Beard, Wallace Thawick - - -

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Beard, John G - - -

Barnside, James - - -

Chandless, Isaac S. - - - died in battle

S. Wiley  
 1st Lt. 5th  
 Cavalry Co. - Ch. 4 - Sec. 4b - 3

Cochran, William - Captain of Stony Creek Militia.

Cochran, George - A faithful soldier

Courtney, Andrew - Died a prisoner of war at Fort Delaware

Courtney, Thomas -

Courtney, George -

Cassell, George - Died of wounds during the war.

Curry, James - Among the last soldiers killed at Appomattox 1865

Cooper, Robert - Died in the war.

Cooper, James - Lost in arm in battle

Cooper, John - Wounded at Fisher's Hill

Cooper, Charles - " " " "

Cooter, George - Killed in battle - 1864

Callison, James -

Cochran, Clark -

Cochran, George B -

Wiley, Thomas -

Ellist, James - Under the command of Gen. Kerby Smith in the southwest. After the war he worked his way to Iowa, from there went to the Dakotas on a trapping expedition, and thereby enlisted in Custer's Army. He was with Reno's Company when Custer's Company was massacred in 1876.

Emmison, Andrew -

Emmison, Richard -

Emmison, Walter -

Friel, George Washington - Died at Stribling Springs in 1862

Friel, Jacob Franklin - Died in battle of Port Republic

Friel, William Thomas - Survived war but was drowned near Elkwater in 1879.

Friel, James - Died in the army on a logboat in Britain soon after the battle 1861.

Friel, James Thomas - Prisoner for three years.

5. Hilley  
 1st Lick, W. Va.  
 Caroline Co. - Ch. 4 - Sec. 4b - 3

- Cochran, William - Captain of Stony Creek Militia.
- Cochran, George - A faithful soldier
- Courtney, Andrew - Died a prisoner of war at Fort Delaware
- Courtney, Thomas -
- Courtney, George -
- Carsell, George - Died of wounds during the war.
- Curry, James - Among the last soldiers killed at Appomattox 1865
- Cooper, Robert - Died in the war.
- Cooper, James - Lost in arm in battle
- Cooper, John - Wounded at Fisher's Hill
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- Emmison, Andrew -
- Emmison, Richard -
- Emmison, Hatcher -
- Fried, George Washington - Died at Stripling Springs in 1862
- Fried, Smith Franklin - Died in battle of Port Republic
- Fried, William Thomas - Survived war but was drowned near Elkwater in 1879.
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Martha S. Dilley  
Clover Lick, W. Va.  
Hochmutter Co. - Ch. 4 - Sec. 4b - 3

Friel, Israel ( These two were from Clover Lick, both survived the war.  
Friel, John L (

Galford, John - Wounded at Gettysburg, died at Richmond soon after in Chimborozo Hospital.

Gum, Robert N. -

Gay, Robert N. -

Gay, Samuel M. - Wounded at Strasburg, Va.

Geiger, Godfrey - (Took part in some of the biggest battles of the war. Were at home on furlough and called by Joe C. Gay to take part in battle of Duncans Lane.

Gum, John E. -

Gum, McBride J. - Captain in Jacob W. Marshalls Co. Once when he was at his home near Clover Lick on furlough he and other Confederate soldiers were at the home of Woods Poage, suddenly I. W. Allen and a company of his scouts began firing on them from the top of a hill near the house. They ran for the woods but Gum seeing he was going to be overtaken, dropped to the ground and lay still when the next shot was fired. As the pursuers passed by they said "Well, we got one of them," and ran on after the others. So Gum escaped. Gum and Allen lived within a mile of each other.

Geiger, Cutlip. - 62nd Va.

Gay, Levi - Wounded Spottsylvania.

Gum, F. McBryde - of Greenbank Wounded at Spottsylvania Court House, and again at Liberty. A third time at Winchester. At Cold Harbor he had his mustache shaved off by a minnie ball. He was twice a prisoner of war. Captured the first time at Uriah Hevener's in 1861 and paroled. Second time taken at his home on Back Mountain in Oct. 1864 and taken to Clarksburg.

Hudson, Dallas - Died at Port Republic

Hudson, E. V. - 1st Lt., served through the war.

Hether, Levi, A. -

Hall, John - Died in the war.

Havely, James - (2nd Va.

Havely, James P. - Captured in Oct. 1861. Died a prisoner of war.

Havely, James - died while home on furlough.



William S. Dilley  
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Hickman, Leilus - Died at Port Republic

Hooten, H. V. - Leilus, served through the war.

Hester, Leilus A. -

Hill, John - Died in the war.

Hively, James - 62nd Va.

Irvine, Leilus P. - ... in 1861. Died a prisoner of war.

... died at home on furlough.

100 S. Miller  
Rich. Va.  
Rich. Co. - Ch. 4 - Dec. 4 - 3

Kennison, David D. - died during war.

Kennison, Davis -

Kennison, Nathaniel -

Kennison, John -

Kee, George M. - 22nd Va.

Keene, Charles L -

Keene, James C. - died of wounds received in 7 day fight around Richmond. Buried near Greenwood Tunnel, Va.

Keene, William - Captured near Richmond in 1862. Never heard from again.

Keene, John - Taken prisoner. Died Camp Chase, Ohio.

Keene, James H. - Lieu., While on picket at the Rapidan River, he joked with the others and as he stuck out his foot, in an instant his ankle was shattered by a minnie ball. He was taken to a hospital and doing well, but he ate too much of the good things brought by some ladies. One of few conf. killed by kindness.

Keene, Jacob - Died in war, in the battle of Cedar Creek, Oct. 19, 1864. He wrote from Bunker Hill on Aug. 1, 1864 to his cousin Nannie Keene in which he tells of much marching and fighting since May 4, and states further that the troops are very much exhausted by these fatiguing marching and hopes they can rest awhile. He further says "I am sorry to inform you that both your brothers are taken prisoners, and the whole of the 25th Regiment excepting 14 have been taken. You ought to be thankful they are prisoners instead of being killed, as there have so many poor soldiers fallen this summer. I think a prisoner now is much better off than we poor men that have to fight and march so much. At least I know they are in less danger" It goes on to say he has not written sooner because they have not stopped long enough to write.

Keene, G. H. -

Keene, James H. - Captain of Nicholas Elmes. At the time of the battle of Droop Mountain Claiborne Keene of Buckey, a Confederate soldier was at home on a leave of absence. Hearing the battle begin he climbed up Bridger Notch and saw the battle. On one side was engaged his brother James Keene, and on the other side his half brother, Alfred Keene. After the battle, Keene knowing that his half brother James Keene had been engaged was filled with apprehension as to his safety, and searched among the dead and wounded, and then passed by the long line of prisoners. Presently he saw Keene and rushed up with outstretched hand saying how glad he was that he was alive and unhurt. But Captain Keene was filled with bitterness at the sight. He folded his arms and thus he spoke: "I am glad to see you, Alfred, that you too are alive and well, but, Alfred, we are not the same as you say". Keene went on to Fort Delaware where he was a prisoner for 10 months. He was Louise Keene's grand

100 S. Milley  
Rich. Va.  
Richards Co. - Ch. 4 - Sec. 4 b - 3

Kennison, David D. - died during war.

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McLaughlin, G. H. -

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It will be remembered that the main battle of Braxton was fought on Oct. 3, 1861 and that the Confederate army fell back to the Top Allegheny, and went to building cabins for the winter, and fortifying and building batteries.

The idea of the Confederates in moving to the Top Allegheny was to prevent an army from marching in behind them by the way of the North Fork road, and the Greenbank Mountain road. Pickets were placed down the Greenbank road, and on the North Fork road. The pickets on the North Fork road decided to blockade it, to be sure that the enemy could not get in the rear, and company C was on the detail to pilot a company of soldiers down on the North Fork with the instructions to blockade it in such a tangle that it would take a year or more to cut it out. The soldiers cut down the mannoth hemlock across the road for about four miles. The soldiers said that it was the largest blockade in the war. After the war it took the road hands about two years to cut it out of the road, and each man working about four days. The Greenbank mountain road was also blockaded.

It was in the engagement on Top Allegheny that the old Confederates soldier, William Slayton was wounded and crept off in the bush to die, but was found two days later by his comrades who were searching for missing soldiers. Their attention was attracted to the place of some one singing a good old hymn. When found, they were told he thought he would sing a hymn before he died, but he recovered and lived many years.

It will be remembered that the home of John Yeager was in the center of the battle field. We have it from Mrs. Rachel Sutton, who at that time was staying with her uncle, John Yeager and Mr. J. D. Beard, a daughter of John Yeager, that they were awakened in the morning before daylight by the loud talking of the soldiers. They were getting ready for battle, and were filling the breastworks just back of the Yeager house. When the bullets began falling on the house like

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The Confederate General ordered the inmates to vacate the house, the Meager family moved out. When they came back, after the battle, they found the house riddled with bullets, one corner was badly damaged by a cannon ball and house was filled with wounded soldiers. The upstairs was used for a hospital for many days, and many of the soldiers died in the house.

The retreat of the Union forces after the battle was known as "Slaytons Retreat" and led to the composition of the old violin tune of the same name, which was composed by two Confederates soldiers, George B. Sutton and Robert Wolfenbarger, who said they heard him trying to give the command to retreat, but couldn't say anything for stammering. It was reported afterwards, that the delay of the Union army, and failing to make the attack in the rear at the proper time was due to the fact that they found a barrel or two of good cider at the Nottingham home and wouldn't march a step until it was all consumed and their canteens filled. The unreasonable thing about the official reports of the battle of Top Allegheny is that perhaps 2000 soldiers on each side would stand and shoot at each other from daylight until 2:30 and only 20 killed on each side. But it will be remembered that the boys of the Blue and the Gray" who fought were amateurs in the art of warfare, and had not yet been drilled, and had not learned the military tactics of Jackson, Lee, and Grant. The shooting must have been at random, for the lumber company who cut the timber in that section found a number of trees half cut down by the cannon balls, these trees were said to be entirely out of the line of battle.

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from a history of Greenbank  
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Pocahontas Times.

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## CIVIL WAR ACTIVITIES IN POCAHONTAS

### Terminating in Battle at White Sulphur

On August 21, 1863 Averill started to Huntersville and halted his main command at Frost, while some of his command drove the Confederates down Knapps Creek until they reached the Northwest passage between Huntersville and Minnehaha Springs. Here the Confederates took a stand in the canyon. Averill hearing about it at Frost, on the 22nd sent Gibson's Battalion down Knapps Creek to make it appear that it led the army. Then Averill with his main army crossed over into the Hills through the Shrader settlement. By this road Averill rode into the deserted village of Huntersville in the rear of the Confederates. A squadron of cavalry under Col. Ohley was sent to learn the whereabouts of the Confederates and found them retreating towards Warm Springs. They were overtaken and there was continual skirmishing until the Confederates were driven through the Ryder Gap into Virginia.

Camp Northwest near Huntersville was the first elaborate camp to be built in the Civil War. It was located on the White farm, and there were substantial log building, much equipment, and a lot of supplies there. The camp was burned on August 22, 1863. The commissary building, stores, cabins, blacksmith shop, wagons, rifles, and so forth were destroyed and a lot of plunder carried away. All the wheat and flour in the mill opposite J. A. Reed's house was also destroyed. That night the Federals camped at Huntersville and waited for two regiments that were marching to join them by way of Beverly and Marlinton. On the 25th Averill marched to Warm Springs and Col. Jackson and Gen. Jones retreated before him to Millboro. Averill rested that night and having cleared Pocahontas of the Confederate army, decided to do the same for Greenbrier County. He therefore turned south and marched into Greenbrier.

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Charles Miller  
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At the time he was in camp at Marlins Bottom, he has with him his twelve year old son, who has a horse of his own and who rode as the mascot of the "Tenth Legion". This twelve year old boy is none other than Hon. John T. Harris, the state clerk of the West Virginia senate and the most popular man in West Virginia.

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James S. Milley 2,24,40  
Pocahontas Co.  
Section 4b-3

### BATTLE CHEAT MOUNTAIN

September 13, 1861

The fortifications at Valley and Middle mountains were made because of a report by William Skeen, a lawyer at Huntersville, who furnished them with a map, and who pointed out that the railroad at Millboro was exposed to attack as well as the railroad at Staunton and that it was not as many miles distant by turnpike. Therefore, Robert E. Lee was sent to Pocahontas to put up fortifications at this place. He arrived at Valley Mountain on August 8, 1861. All histories say that his fortifications were on Valley Mountain. That in part is true for that was the pass that his troops watched, but his main camp was south of the pass through middle Mt. and the signs there today show the greatest amount of work. Lee's troops were volunteers and amateurs in the art of war. There was a lot of sickness in his camp that summer. Almost all of Lee's troops, as well as other confederate troops in the county that summer 1861 were lowlanders from the cotton country. Many of them had never seen a mountain before. That was why the mountains got them. There were very few mountain men in camp.

The Confederate forces took up all of Greenbrier Valley. They had armies at Travelers Rest (Camp Bartow) under the command of Loring. At Huntersville (Camp Northwest) at Marlinton and Top Allegheny. These troops came from all over the south. They had been called there owing to the fact that it soon became apparent the Virginia west of the great divide was not going to put many soldiers into the field to aid secession.

At this time Robert E. Lee was a brigadier general of the Confederate troops and was ordered to the Greenbrier Valley to take command of the units there. General Loring ordered Lee, but took orders from him.

McClellan kept every thing before him for he had railroad transportation into the center of the state. While the confederates were gathering from the south by slow marching and wagon trail over the endless mountains. By the middle of the summer, McClellan had a



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S. Dilley  
The Cheat Mountain

large army in the Tygarts Valley at Elk Water. Here that army dug one of the biggest trenches and bunkers of the war to hold the road. To keep the fort from being flanked and surprised from behind, another army had made a most elaborate fortified camp at White's Top of Cheat on the Staunton and Parkersburg Turnpike. This place also lent itself to easy defense. The road here passes through a gap between two beautiful hills, and the soldiers fortified both sides of the road.

The Union and Confederate forces faced each other for about two months, each waiting for the other to give battle. Finally, about the middle of September, Lee planned to attack the fortifications at Elkwater. Realizing that the pike was closed by the fortifications at White Top, the orders were that on the night of Sept. 13, (Some authorities say the 11th), the army from Camp Bartow were to climb Back Allegheny then leave the road and silently pass White's Top through the spruce woods and to fall in behind these fortifications. A part of the army was to stay and watch the army at White Top to keep them from joining the other Union forces. The rest of the Army from Camp Bartow were to drop down into Tygarta Valley and march up stream and attack the Elkwater fortifications in the rear, while Lee marched down and attacked the front. Never was a battle better planned, and never was one worse executed, but Lee could not have known that the spruce woods on top of Cheat were like or he would not have expected an army of southerners to get through at night. Lee's camp was in hardwood territory where a man could easily walk through. But to take an army through the jungles of Cheat in the night was an unheard of project. There were dense growths of spruce something like a hundred thousand board feet to the acre. There were many windfalls that could not be seen at night. There were great patches of laurel that even a Pocahontas bear could hardly penetrate. The ground was covered with a plant called hobblebored that made a savage, both painful and difficult. Also between Back Allegheny and Cheat was a strip of boggy, swampy country so covered with spruce that the sun could hardly penetrate. To add to the horrors of these southern boys, the first snow of the winter began to fall that night, and when the men got into that dark morning through which Cheat River winds

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Marlinton, W. Va.POCAHONTAS COUNTY

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Chapter 4--Section 4--Part bReminiscences of Civil War Days.  
By Evelyn Yeager Beard.

In the fall and winter of 1861-62 the Confederate soldiers camped at Camp Allegheny, my old home place, under the command of Jose (Ed) Johnson. The sugar grove belonging to my father, John Yeager, consisting of about five hundred trees was used for building the camps and cabins. This location could be used as a point of vantage, as by using field glasses they could observe the movements of the Union soldiers camped on top of Cheat Mountain, near the Clubhouse.

The year of 1861-62 was a cold and rainy year. Many of the soldiers camping there were from the South. I remember them as being not very warmly clad, and shivering with cold. Not being used to the cold, damp climate many of them sickened and died, and were buried on a little hill back of our house.

Our back porch was partitioned off to be used as a commissary by Uncle Jake Arbogast. The soldiers wanting tobacco, candy, etc., would have to wait their turn. The room being small, and at times crowded, they would ask me to make their purchases for them. Being a child and small, they would make room for me. I would make their purchases and then receive a liberal share of the candy. I was a youngster of about ten and my brother, Mack Yeager (Paul McNeel Yeager) eight. The officers and soldiers made a lot over us children. Receiving boxes from home they would invite us down to help eat them. Of course we were not particularly shy in doing so. Many of

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## FOCALONTAS COUNTY

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One of the skirmishes of the Civil War was fought at this point, called Church Hill, o~~b~~ Camp Allegheny. While but a skirmish, it was a hard fought one and lasted from about 4 A.M. until after 2 P.M. If I remember correctly, nineteen were killed. I remember the shots falling on the roof of our house like hail. My mother and sister Fannie were ill at this time. During a lull in the battle Colonel Baldwin of the 52nd Virginia Regiment had them carried over on cots to his own cebin for safety, and they remained there during the night. My brother Mack Yeager and myself watched the remainder of the battle from a point of safety. We saw the Confederate flagman fell, and ~~see~~ the flag almost instantly raised egain, believe by Lieut. Higor, but I am not positiva about the nama. Capt. Mollohan ~~was~~ killed in the battle of Church Hill, and was buried there along with many others. A spent ball passad betwaen my brother the late Henry Yeager, and Rachel Arbogast, who was visiting us. Capt. Anderson, Confederate was killed by advanced guard of Union soldiers dressed in Confederate uniform. Capt. Anderson waved to them, thinking they were Confederate men and he was instantly killed.

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# FOCAL MOUNTAIN COUNTY

-3-

had the upstairs of our house converted into a temporary hospital. Our house was under construction when war broke out, and was not then complete. The upstairs was one large room. Several of the wounded men died, and were buried along by those killed in battle. For a brief period a downstairs room was occupied by a sick officer, with his wife and baby. Later this same room was used as a Post Office kept by Uncle Jake Arbogast. The front part of this house is still in good condition, the remainder being torn down. We had quite a collection of sabers, cannon balls, musket balls and minnie balls which we used in our play. Ed Freeman, living at the present time at the old home place at Allegheny church, finds some of the musket balls occasionally when plowing his fields. He gave some of them to us when we had a family reunion picnic there in the summer of 1924. —The old batteries and trenches are still in evidence.

A Confederate soldier was sick in one of the camps of the 31st Virginia Regiment when a Union soldier crept into the cabin to steal provisions, thinking the cabin was empty. The sick soldier crawled to the door after him and shot him.

My father, John Yeager, died December 2, 1861, and was believed to have been poisoned.

In the spring of 1862 the Confederates broke camp on top Allegheny. At two o'clock the same night of their leaving John Bates and two or three other men set fire to the commissary camp and camps by lighting every other cabin. My mother pleaded with them to save them so as to be used for stables and out-



had the upstairs of our house converted into a temporary hospital. Our house was under construction when war broke out, and was not then complete. The upstairs was one large room. Several of the wounded men died, and were buried along by those killed in battle. For a brief period a downstairs room was occupied by a sick officer, with his wife and baby. Later this same room was used as a Post Office kept by Uncle Jake Arbogast. The front part of this house is still in good condition, the remainder being torn down. We had quite a collection of sabers, cannon balls, musket balls and minnie balls which we used in our play. Ed Freeman, living at the present time at the old home place at Allegheny church, finds some of the musket balls occasionally when plowing his fields. He gave some of them to us when we had a family reunion picnic there in the summer of 1924. —The old batteries and trenches are still in evidence.

A Confederate soldier was sick in one of the camps of the 31st Virginia Regiment when a Union soldier crept into the cabin to steal provisions, thinking the cabin was empty. The sick soldier crawled to the door after him and shot him.

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## POCAHONTAS COUNTY

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After so many of our own boys had joined the army, mail became an important item in the lives of those at home. All of our mail, as well as that of the neighbors, had to be gotten from Hightown, Virginia, eleven miles away, only one house being located along the way. The person making the trip would bring mail for all in the neighborhood. Practically every family had someone that belonged to them in the war. The boys, before leaving, decided that when any of them wrote a letter, they would mention the ones they knew and had soon, so each family would hear as often as possible. Mail in those days was not a daily occurrence as it is now, and receiving word, however indirectly, could be a comfort to the ones at home. When our turn came for getting the mail, I was usually the one that rode horse-

## POCAHONTAS COUNTY

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back on the weekly trips to get it. I never was afraid, except when making the return trip. On the way home at every turn in the road, I expected to meet an army of Yankees. Eight of the eleven miles was dense timberland, and looking back on it now, I believe I was a pretty good soldier myself, for those miles seemed long ones to a child making the trip alone, even though I usually went and came in a sweeping gallop. On one of these trips my sister Fannie, about twenty years of age, later Mrs. James D. Kerr, made the trip. After leaving, several regiments of Union soldiers came by on their way to Hightown, and my mother knew that my sister would have to meet them on her way back. The hour came for her return, sundown and dark, and still she had not returned. It was a long, anxious night, and we, children that we were, at least partly realized the hours of anxious suspense that my mother was going through. At daybreak she returned. She had met the Yankee soldiers about three o'clock in the afternoon, six miles from home, at Laurel Fork. A ruffian soldier ordered her off her horse, but the officer in command (think it was Col. Geo. Washington Hull, from McDowell, Virginia) stepped forward saying, "No, Lady, stay on your horse. You shall not be harmed but we shall have to delay your return home until morning. We mean to camp near here tonight and no word must be carried back." At sundown the officer sent a word with her to Daniel Wilfong's, three miles from home, he himself standing guard outside all night to make sure no word was sent to Confederate soldiers. At daybreak, he rejoined

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Mother and Fannie knitted socks for Will and Henry while in the army. Yankees were often passing through, and at one of these times we had quite a scramble in the pantry. Mother and I entered in time to see a Yankee trying to make his escape through the window with his arms full of provisions and the prized knitted socks, with Fannie clinging frantically to the socks, determined he should not have them. Those watching from outside laughed at their comrade's predicament, trying to retain the socks as well as the provisions, and yet not lose his balance on the high narrow window. Fannie was victorious in the struggle for possession of the socks.

Cousin Mag Arbogast, later Campbell, and I were visiting at Estlin's Nottingham who lived near Boyer. As in every war comedy and tragedy go side by side, and pranks played daily have been turned into tragedy. We were about thirteen years old at this time. We dressed in uniform, put

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a gun over our shoulder, and went out on the hill where we knew Dave and Jim Kerr, who were not old enough to go to the army, could see us. They spied us and, thinking we were suspicious characters, possibly Yankee spies, shouldered their guns also and started our way. We began to saunter in the direction of the house, but it was not long before we heard them cry, "Halt," which we knew to do immediately. Only a short time before one of the pickets had cried, "Halt" to Jack Slayton. Not being quite normal mentally, we became frightened and did not obey the command. I can imagine I see them carrying him by our house now.

When the heavy fighting and cannonading was being done in Richmond and other points in Virginia, we would lie flat on the ground and listen to the rumble of the cannon. Anxiously we would wait for mail to hear if our boys were in those battles and were safe.

At the close of the Civil War, Henry Arbogast Yeager was held as a prisoner-of-war at Point Lookout, Maryland, and was released, after taking the oath of allegiance to the United States, on June 17, 1865. The prisoners were released alphabetically, and Henry Yeager realized too late to be released under "Y", as the original spelling of Yeager was with a "Y", and he began calling himself "Rouger" instead of Yeager.

When he was finally released it was under "R" as Henry A. Reager but he took good care to sign it "Monty A. Yeager". This is true, as the photostat copy on file in Virginia State Library, Richmond, Va., original on file in War Dept., Washington, D. C., clearly shows. Their system was not as ironclad then as now.



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Juanita Dilley  
Clover Lick  
Pocahontas County

### CIVIL WAR

Captain J. W. Mathews served in the war between the states. He had always expressed a desire to be buried in a Confederate Uniform and according to his wish his body was drawn to the grave in a two-horse wagon. He was born in Pocahontas County in 1839 and at the age of 21 he enlisted as a private in Co. 125th Virginia Infantry and saw service in many of the historic battles of the Civil War. He was one of the so-called prisoner of war in Charleston S. C. been placed with a number of others, about 600 between the Federal defense and the attacking Confederates, and being exposed to the firing of this attacking army. Fortunately the danger of the prisoners was discovered in time to avert any casualties. He died in Greenbrier County in 1930.

Wednesday Oct. 10, 1934 Mathew John McNeel celebrated this nineteenth birthday at the old McNeel homestead where there has a John McNeel resided since 1768. At the age of seventeen he entered the Civil War and saw arduous and honorable service. He is the last remaining member of Captain W. L. McNeels' Company of soldiers. -----Pocahontas Times

No where in the mountains were the Confederate States more solidly supported then in the Greenbank community in fact there was hardly a Union man found in the whole community. The first year of the war 1861, Confederate Veterans Company "G" of the Virginia 31st Regiment mustered in the service 53 all volunteers. In the second year of the war company G had 120 soldiers, all six feet tall except James Hughes and Robert Wolfenbarger, practically all from the Greenbank District. Company G. was of the famous 31st Regiment of the 4th Brigade of Stonewall Jacksons Corps and Army under the command of Robert E. Lee. The Union soldiers admitted that they could always tell when they had to confront the 31st Regiment of Stonewall's Brigade, due to the fact that the impace was always stubborn and irresistible.

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John M. Lightner was first Lieutenant in this Company from Huntersville.

The third Company formed was that of Captain Arbogast at Greenbank. It too, was attached to the 31st Virginia Infantry. Captain Arbogast was afterward promoted to Major of the regiment. Lieutenant H. M. Poague of Pocahontas County but serving in a Bath County Company was killed in action at Warrenton Virginia, October 12 1863.

Lieutenant James McLaughlin, of Captain Stofer's Company from Huntersville was wounded at Shepherdstown and died at Winchester, Virginia. The loss was considerable on both sides. Among that of the Confederates was that of Captain Anderson of the Lynchburg Artillery and Captain J. C. Whitmer of the Pocanontas Rifles.

In the Civil War the first engagement which occurred in Pocahontas County was at Camp Bartow on what is known as the Peter Yeager farm known as Traveler's Repose. Late in the summer of 1861 a Confederate force was collected at this point. It consisted of the first Georgia Infantry, Col. Ramsey commanding; the twelfth Georgia, Colonel Edward Johnson in command; the 31st Virginia Infantry, Colonel William L. Jackson and Colonel Hensbro's Battalion; the Churchville Cavalry from Churchville, Augusta County, commanded by the Captain J. C. McPutt; the entire force under the command of General Henry L. Jackson.

On the 14th of September, 1861, this force was attacked by the Federals under command of Generals Reynolds and Rosecrans.

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The firing began early in the morning and continued until night-fall when the Federals withdrew and fell back to Cheat Mountain summit. The Confederate loss was thirty-six killed. That of the Federals unknown. A few days later the Confederates fell back to Camp Allegheny, and after being reinforced by two regiments, one of which was the 52nd Virginia Infantry, under Colonel John Baldwin, they fortified a strong natural position. Here in December they were again attacked by the Federals and the engagement continued throughout the day, but terminated as had the first, in the repulse of the Federals.

#### BATTLE OF RICH MOUNTAIN

On the 23rd day of June 1861 General McClellan assumed command of the Federal forces in Western Virginia and began a series of movements which met with no successful resistance until the ~~Federals~~ <sup>Confederates</sup> were compelled to retreat beyond the mountains. He marched against General Pegrim who with a force of 4000 infantry had taken up a strong position on Rich Mountain which is also known by that name in Pocahontas County. Pegrim sent 2500 men and a battery of artillery to resist the advance of Rosecrans. They were the first to reach the top of the Mountain and here the Federals were greeted by a discharge of Artillery and their advance checked. Soon they were reinforced by an Indiana regiment. A charge was made along the entire line. The Confederates fell back and at once began a hasty retreat.

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General R. E. Lee in West Virginia.

General R. E. Lee, the ablest officer in Virginia, marched at the head of 9000 men against General Reynolds who was lying with a considerable force at Cheat Mountain. The attack was made on the 14th of September and after several hours severe fighting Lee was forced to retreat, leaving 100 dead upon the field.

Among the dead was Colonel John Washington, a recent proprietor of Mount Vernon. Lee's army halted on the banks of the Greenbrier river and began to entrench itself. General Reynolds, after receiving re-enforcements set out on the 2nd of October from Cheat Mountain with a force of 5000 men to drive Lee from his position. Colonel Kimball with the 14th Indiana led the advance while General Milroy, with a portion of his brigade was to deploy to the left, drive in the pickets and force the Confederates within the entrenchments.

At daylight he/ arrived at Greenbrier bridge and found it occupied. A charge was made, the bridge carried and a crossing effected. Then began an artillery duel which fairly shook the surrounding mountains. Soon three of Lee's guns were disabled and he again retreated. The Federal loss was eight killed and thirty-two wounded. Lee left General Johnson at Grafton with 2500 men on the summit of the Alleghenies,



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An engagement took place, the results of which were not advantageous to either side, the loss being 130 on both sides. Milroy withdrew and fell back to Cheat Mountain.

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Above all taken from Hardesty's Encyclopedia.

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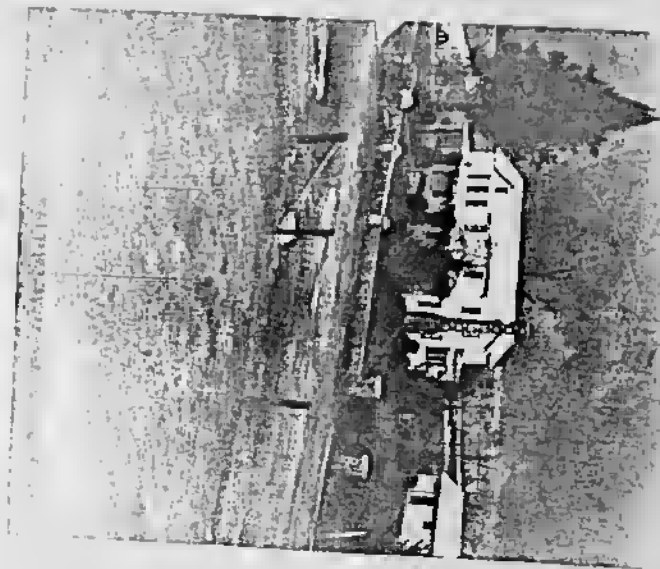
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Juanita Dilley  
Clover Dick  
Pocahontas County



Juanita S. Dilley  
Pocahontas County

A part of the Confederate fortifications at Camp Bartow at Travelers Repose. Two cannons were stationed here. This and several others are still to be found on this battle field.



Historic Travelers Repose as it is today. The only regular stage coach stop in the county. The original building was practically destroyed during the Civil War. Mr. B. E. Beard who now owns it tells me that the front part of the house is pretty much as it was rebuilt by Peter Younger after the war.

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CHAPTER 4 -- SECTION 4b -- 3

Many of our citizens were arrested during the war for being sympathizers on one side or the other. The following are a few of the names I have been able to find. Also some were killed for their beliefs.

Thomas Galford was a pronounced Confederate sympathizer and was regarded as a dangerous citizen to be at large in war times. He was arrested by a detachment of Union soldiers under Captain Nelson Fray, sent to Camp Chase where he died during the war.

John Smith of Stony Creek was a Union sympathizer. He was arrested by the Confederate militia, but was proven not dangerous and was released on parole. He died before he got back home.

Richard Auldrige was a Confederate sympathizer and was killed. His two sons were in the southern army. The one son, John Auldrige was killed at Gettysburg. The other son, Allen Auldrige, was discharged as a brave and faithful soldier.

Josiah Beard was taken prisoner by Federal troops near the end of the war, though he was past 70 years of age. Something was said to rouse his ire, and he challenged the whole squad to single combat.

Perry Arbogast was a sincere, decided but harmless sympathizer with the Union cause. When last seen alive he and his neighbor Eli Buzzard were in charge of a squad of persons claiming to be Confederate scouts. A few days afterwards these two civilians were found dead near the roadside, about half way between their homes at Glade Hill and Frost. From the attitude in which Arbogast's body was found it is inferred that he died in the act of prayer.

William R. Moore lived near Edray. He was greatly respected. His sympathies were with the Union adherents, and he died at Wheeling during the war.  
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Annita S. Dilley

George Burner was a Jacksonian democrat, and strange to say one of the original Pocahontas secessionists, so intense his devotions to state rights had become.

(The question of secession was the main issue in Pocahontas. Many had already freed their slaves because they did not believe in slavery, yet they did not believe in setting them all free at once.)

Jacob Slaven lived on the Staunton and Parkersburg Turnpike. Many people traveled this route, and the home of Jacob Slaven was well known as a place of hospitality. Governor Joe Johnson and Stonewall Jackson have stopped here to enjoy trout and venison. Everything seemed prosperous and pleasant with Jacob Slaven until the terrible ravages of war laid his home in ashes, and exiled the happy inmates.

Other places in the county were so ravaged by war as was upper Pocahontas.

From - Prices' history.

Irregular Warfare - Bushwhacking. In the spring of 1862 with the regular troops swept out of the county, the irregular fighters began to cause trouble. They called them gorillas at first, but later coined the word bushwhackers. It was the curse of a brave and impetuous people, such as are to be found in the mountains that they could not help taking part in the fighting whether they had been sworn in or not. They carried guns like city men carry canes, and they shot on one side or the other according to their convictions.

Dilley in a letter to Gen. W. S. Rosecrans wrote on March 18, 1862. This day was set as the day for drafting of the militia of Pocahontas and Highland counties. Many citizens to escape draft were hiding in the mountains and trying to escape. Seven have arrived here yesterday.

From John Dilley wrote that 24 refugees from Pocahontas and Highland counties had escaped to escape him, drifted into the rebel army; that the loyalty of the people to the Union was doubtful. That Dilley reported refugees



Annita S. Dilley

George Burner was a Jacksonian democrat, and strange to say one of the original Pocahontas secessionists, so intense his devotions to state rights had become.

(The question of secession was the main issue in Pocahontas. Many had already freed their slaves because they did not believe in slavery, yet they did not believe in setting them all free at once.)

Jacob Slaven lived on the Staunton and Parkersburg Turnpike. Many people traveled this route, and the home of Jacob Slaven was well known as a place of hospitality. Governor Joe Johnson and Stonewall Jackson have stopped here to enjoy trout and venison. Everything seemed prosperous and pleasant with Jacob Slaven until the terrible ravages of war laid his home in ashes, and exiled the happy inmates.

Places in the county were so ravaged by war as was upper Pocahontas. From - Prices' History.

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March 18th, Dilley wrote that 64 refugees from Pocahontas and Highland counties had come to escape draft, drifted into the rebel army; that the county was full of rebels to the north. March 31st, Dilley reported refugees

continue to come. This day 12 arrived from Pocahontas and reported that the treatment still continued.

April 4, 1862 General William Skeen wrote to Confederate headquarters that these men that Virginia had authorized to organize as regulars for the home defense were devastating the country and had killed three citizens of Pocahontas and stolen 15 horses. He complained of them as bitterly as did the Federal generals.

Regular troops were withdrawn after the battle of Top Allegheny. Then it was hundreds of able-bodied men took up arms to defend themselves, and there were uneasy times.

Soldiers at home on furlough responded to appeal for assistance and little armies would spring up in a day, have a skirmish, and disband as quickly as they had come together. It was but an echo of the minute men of the Revolution. The battle of Duncan's Lane was the largest battle fought in Pocahontas by these troops and furlough soldiers, though there was continual smaller skirmishes.

The courts did not meet and the citizens suffered from the needs of soldiers of both armies and from the irregular troops. It is certain that nowhere in the country was there more peril to inhabitants than in the county of Pocahontas. This danger was so great because of the division of sentiment.

From - West Virginia blue book 1926

There was a skirmish at Marlins Bottom April 19, 1864, Captain J. W. Marshall's Co. of the 19th Virginia Cavalry came upon a company of Federal soldiers (identity unknown, and chased them north toward Edray.

#### LAST BATTLE

The last battle of the Civil war was fought at Brandy Hallow near Huntersville, on the site of Camp Northwest on the 16th day of May 1865.

This engagement was fought between the 6th Ohio Cavalry and a portion of Gen. L. Jackson's army returning to their homes after the surrender.

From - 1875 W. Va. blue book - by Andrew Price

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particularly any in doing so. Many of

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From - 1878 W. Va. Blue Book - by Andrew Price

... help out them.  
... particularly any in doing so. Many or

citizens, and was familiar with the country in the vicinity. Immediately following the fight, and while Averill was still in pursuit of Jackson, Colonel Harris dispatched guards through the country north of Beverly, who arrested quite a large number of citizens, all of whom were peaceable, law-abiding men--good citizens. They were marched into Beverly and formed in line near the old courthouse. Colonel Harris then walked along the front of the line and put this question to each one separately: "Are you a Union man?" When the answer was directly in the affirmative, the man was passed. When the answer was, "My sentiments are with the South," or its equivalent, Harris ordered the person giving such answer to take two steps forward. Several of those in line, in reply to the question, stated that they were "Constitutional Union men"; of these latter were Lennox Camden, a brother of Judge G. D. Camden, and Charles W. Russell, the latter, a late leading merchant and well known throughout the county, and who was a Union man. This answer evidently, in the opinion of Harris, did not constitute sufficient loyalty, for in each instance where this answer was given, such person was ordered to take the two steps to the front. When Harris had finished his questioning, there were thirteen in the advanced line. The number in this instance in the course of time proved to be a frightful exemplification of all that has ever been attributed to it in the way of being an omen of disaster by those given to superstition. The thirteen were immediately sent under guard to the Federal prison at Fort Delaware. The names of those sent were: Lennox Camden, Charles W. Russell, Thomas J. Caplinger, Levi E. Ward, George Caplinger, Jr., Smith Crouch, John Crouch, William G. Galt, Phillip Loner, Ruth Chenoweth, William Clem, John

Leary, and Allen Isner.

The public at the time attributed these arrests to Harris's intense hatred of Southern sympathizers and his chagrin and anger at Jackson's having reached the immediate vicinity of Beverly without his knowledge, and especially as Jackson had made announcement of his intended coming several months in advance; all of which Harris realized constituted a severe reflection upon the commander of the post in not having been more alert, and in allowing himself to be thus surprised; and which, but for the miscarriage of Jackson's orders to Colonel Dunn, would have resulted in the probable capture of himself and his entire command; and also, the further fact that Jackson had succeeded in withdrawing his troops and escaping without material loss, all of which was intensified by the rebuke and criticism administered by General Averill, his superior officer. Averill, being a West Point graduate, had no special admiration for civilian army officers like Harris.

There is little doubt that Harris was smarting under Averill's criticisms, and especially as Averill attributed his own failure to defeat, if not to capture, Jackson's command to Harris's failure to notify him (Averill) in time. Averill, in his official report, says: "Had Colonel Harris furnished me with timely warning of the approach of the enemy, I should have killed, captured, or dispersed his entire command. As it was, he received but a slight lesson."

Later, on several occasions, most strenuous efforts were made to obtain the release of these men from Fort Delaware, where they were doing like sheep. The public generally knew they were

innocent of any charge; a number of them were influential men; but all efforts were without avail until virtually half of them had died in prison. When finally the survivors, seven in number, were released, one of them, Lennox Camden, died before reaching home. Another, Philip Isner, died a few days after reaching home. Smith Crouch and John Crouch died very soon afterwards. The three survivors, Charles W. Russell, Thomas B. Caplinger, and George Caplinger, were so broken in health as to suffer from the effects of their incarceration and treatment to the day of their demise.

Harris had, prior to the war, been a country doctor, practiced in Ritchie County (now West Virginia) and later, located in Glenville in the same State. After he became identified with the Union cause, he became intensely partisan. In those days intense partisanship was the stepping-stone, for many, to promotion. Harris had risen to the rank of colonel of the 10th Virginia (Federal) Regiment, as stated. This regiment contained many good men, and many who detested Harris. His unpopularity was such that while stationed at Beverly, he was shot at one night by some of his regiment, one bullet passing through his whiskers. Of this I was informed by one of his commissioned officers. Elevated to the rank of colonel, Harris seemed to have become obsessed with an exalted idea of the prominence that such an appointment carried with it. He was stationed at Beverly, a long time. Having the power of a despot, he was much dreaded, especially as he seemed ever ready to give a willing ear to the unreliable and disreputable who approached him with tales about their neighbors, and which resulted generally in the arrest and imprisonment of those so reported. It would be difficult for me to recall to memory, and I presume it is equally

true of others, the number of citizens of the county, or their names, who were, during the war, arrested and sent under guard to the military prisons of the North, many of them by Harris-- generally without cause and without any specific charge being made know to them, and many of whom did not live to return to their homes.

INVENTORY OF MATERIALS

Topic:

*History* W. Va.

Title:

*Battle of Droop Mt*

Author:

Status:

*Complete* Date Submitted: \_\_\_\_\_ Length: *600* Words

Contents:

Editor:

*Detailed history of the Battle of Droop Mt. Gives events and dates preceding battle; full description of battle with map of battlefield.*

Source:

*Source given*

Consultant:

*Ballaball*

File: \_\_\_\_\_

Folder: \_\_\_\_\_



# BATTLE OF DROOP MT.

NOVEMBER 6, 1863

BY CAPT. E. R. HOWERY

## EVENTS AND DATES PRECEEDING BATTLE

Nov. 1, 1863--Gen. W. W. Averell left Beverly, West Va.  
 Nov. 3, 1863--Gen. A. N. Duffie left Charleston, W. Va.  
 Nov. 5, 1863--Gen. John Echols occupied Droop Mountain  
 Number of troops engaged (Union)-----4700  
 Number of troops (Confederate)-----3950  
 Number killed (Union)-----130  
 Number killed (Confederate)-----400  
 Troops from West Virginia, Virginia, Ohio and Pennsylvania took part in the battle.

The Battle of Droop Mountain was fought November 6th, 1863 between Union forces, commanded by Brig. Gen. William W. Averell, U.S. Army, and Confederate troops under the command of Brig. Gen. John Echols, C.S. Army.

One of the reasons for the meeting of these two forces in West Virginia at this time was: The western part of Virginia was divided by people who were in favor of the Union, so June 20th, 1863 the old state of Virginia became divided into Virginia and West Virginia.

Confederate troops then were sent into the newly formed state so as to harass the Union troops in that vicinity, also to bring down the morale of the people who had left the old state of Virginia.

The Southern troops were very successful. They captured the Greenbrier River and Harpersburg, West Virginia. The route to the Union was via Union, West Virginia border and was very available to the Union and the Southern troops.

in the vicinity of Elkins and near Charleston separated. Also winter was coming and the Confederate forces had to be drawn out so that the line could be maintained. The Southern troops were living off of the country and the people were insisting that aid be sent to them.

On October 28th, Gen. Benjamin Kelly, U.S. Army ordered General Averell who at that time was stationed at Beverly, West Virginia, to move to Lewisburg and capture or drive away any Confederate forces stationed in that vicinity. Also to join forces with General Duffie who left Charleston November 3rd, 1863 at 6:00 A.M. for Lewisburg. After a junction of the two forces, they were to move to Union W. Va. and thence to Virginia and Tennessee R.R., at Dublin Station and destroy the railroad bridge over New River.

General Averell moved on the 1st day of November and immediately contacted guerrilla bands and all detachments of

Confederate troops. The forces of Gen. Averell were able to push back all resistance and on November 5th, reached the town of Hillsboro, W. Va., about 3 miles from Droop Mountain and 33 miles from Lewisburg. The Union forces were advised that General Duffie would not reach Lewisburg until November 7th so didn't attack until the morning of November 6th, 1863.

The plan of attack by the Union troops was as follows: 14th Pennsylvania Cavalry were placed near the Locust Creek bridge in sight of the Confederate lines, and kept moving around giving the appearance of starting towards the Southern lines.

Keoper's battery was placed on the hill above Boards Mill, and immediately opened fire on the Confederate batteries on top of Droop Mountain about 8:00 A.M. Eiven's battery was placed to the left of the turn pike between Hillsboro and Droop. Gibson's battalion and the famous 10th W. Va. Infantry was held in readiness on the pike at Hillsboro.

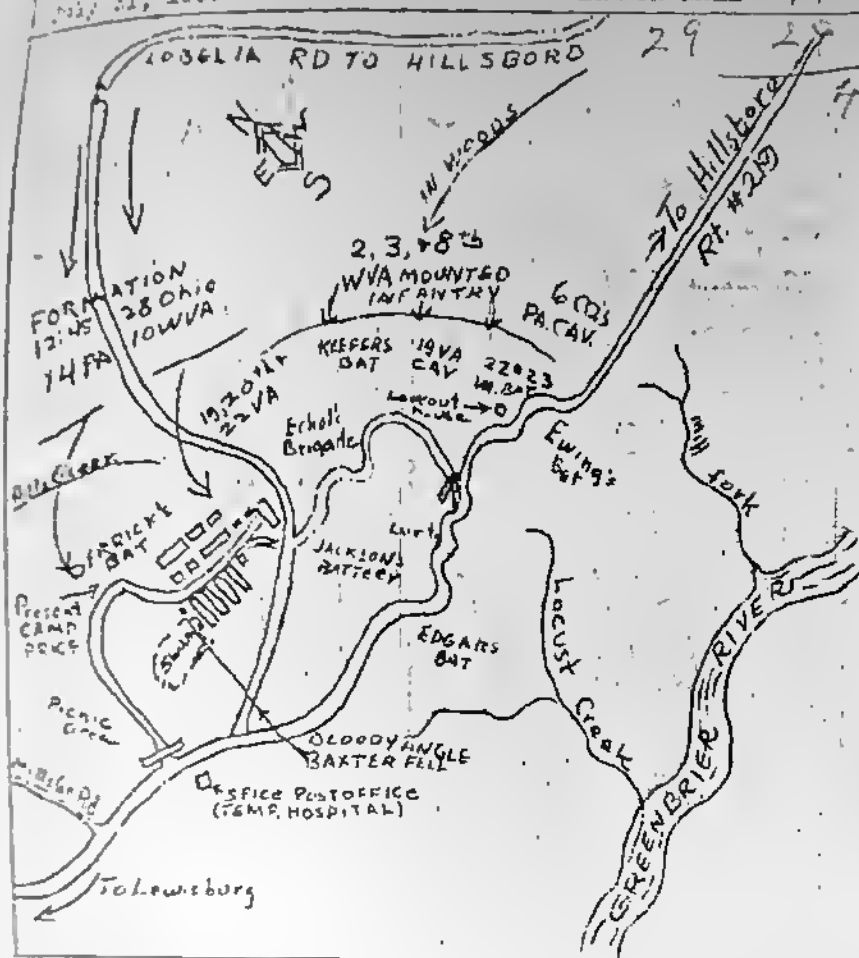
The 2nd, 3rd, and 8th West Virginia Mounted Infantry Regiments were on the right of the turn pike out of sight about two miles from the base of Droop Mountain.

The 28th Ohio Infantry with one company of the 14th Pennsylvania Cavalry (about 1200 men in all) were sent on a long detour to the right via Labolia to come over the Jacob road and take the

July 31, 1936

CANNON BALL

PAGE 3



### MAP OF BATTLEFIELD

Confederates on the left flank. This movement started about 8:00 A.M. and due to conditions of the road, did not complete the march until 1:45 P.M.

The position of the Southerners was as follows: On the river road, Biggs' Battalion; on the brow of the mountain facing the Union troops from right and left, 22nd Virginia Cavalry under Colonel Ferguson; 19th Virginia Cavalry under Col. George B. Berricks; battalion of Infantry, Jackson's Battalion; Major Blasing with a company of the 1st Battalion was placed on the Loblack-John road covering the left flank. The right flank was protected by the mountain.

bar 6th, 1863, the flanking party that had been sent via Loblack reached the Confederate lines and immediately attacked.

The 2nd, 3rd, and 8th Regiments immediately started a direct attack up the face of Droop Mountain. They joined force with the flanking party, and drove the Confederate back toward Lewisburg.

Due to the road being narrow the Confederates were in confusion—cavalry and Infantry all mixed up together.

Colonel Thompson was in command of the rear guard of the Confederate and it was through his strong defense that the Southern troops were able to withdraw without much loss of life or equipment.

Another thing that might have influenced the retreat was that Gen. Averell did not wish to push the Confederates too fast, as he wanted Gen. Duffie to reach Lewisburg first and cut them off.

The Confederates retreated on thru the night and passed thru Lewisburg just as General Duffie, entered the town from the west. General Duffie captured a few stragglers and some equipment.

The battle was the deciding point in West Virginia. After this the entire state was in the hands of the Northern armies.

One very interesting part of General Echols' report is quoted: "My artillery and trains were brought safely through with the exception of one brass Howitzer belonging to Chapman's battery, which broke completely down during the retreat so that it had to be left this offering the enemy the only trophy of which they can boast."

This cannon is supposed to have been buried in the swamp on Droop Mountain, but has never been found. For those who visit the Droop Mountain Battle Field, a large map has been drawn showing the position of the troops the day of the battle, also the present location of Camp Price, a larger and more distinct map, than could be shown here. This larger map shows location of monuments, markers and other items of interest.

Co. 2598, GOC, invites all to visit the Battle Field and will enjoy showing to visitors the old battle trenches, breastworks, gun implements, and other interesting things.

Topic: History

E. Va.

Title: Draco Mountain BattlefieldAuthor: Willa F. Yeager

Date submitted: \_\_\_\_\_

Length: 750

words

Status: Complete

Editor: \_\_\_\_\_

Contents: Complete statement on Draco Mountain Battlefield. Gives location and brief history of battle, and stories surrounding it.Source: Interview given

Consultants: \_\_\_\_\_

Reliability: \_\_\_\_\_

File: \_\_\_\_\_

Folder: \_\_\_\_\_

*Rella F. Yeager*

6

*Dr. R. F. Yeager  
Battlefield Park Commission*DROOP MOUNTAIN BATTLEFIELD

One of the hard fought battles of the Civil War occurred at Droop Mountain, Pocahontas County, on November 6th, 1863, in which West Virginia Soldiers, both Confederate and Union participated.

Droop Mountain is a very high elevation--3000 ft--overlooking the valley of the Greenbrier River, in the Little Levels District of Pocahontas County and the far off peaks of the Allegheny Mountains making it one of the most beautiful scenic spots in West Virginia.

Each Army fought for what it believed to be right and nearly all of the men who were actors in that bloody drama were West Virginians. The bitter struggle ended and the animosity engendered by that conflict has passed away and universal peace reigns.

The scene spread out before us was one of indescribable beauty and enchantment. Towering mountains, the smiling and fertile plains, the famous historic Greenbrier River flowing at the base of the rugged mountain --nowhere in all our travels have we witnessed such scenic beauty or such a location for a State Park.

Prior to this battle there were no considerable Confederate forces anywhere in West Virginia except in Greenbrier Valley which was held by the Confederates from its head to its foot. For the purpose of dislodging these Confederate

forces, General Averill was directed to march from Beverly, West Virginia to Lewisburg, in Greenbrier County, and ~~that~~ it was while on this march he met the enemy at Droop Mountain. The battle was there fought between the forces commanded by General Averill and the Confederate forces by General John Echols and Colonel William L. Jackson. Droop Mountain is fourteen miles south of Marlinton, the County seat, seven miles from Mill Point and four from Hillsboro. It is ten miles from Renick Station, sixteen from Frankford and twenty-four miles from Lewisburg.

The forces engaged in the battle of Droop Mountain were composed of twelve Confederate Units, regiments, battalion and independent companies while the Union forces were composed of nine Unites, regiments and battalions. There was but a slight difference in the numbers composing the two armies. The 10th West Virginia Infantry and the 23rd Ohio that composed the flanking party and did the principal fighting was officially reported as 1175 while the 22nd Virginia Infantry Confederate was reported officially at 550 soldiers strong and the 23rd Virginia Battalion 350 strong. Capt. Marshall with 125 dismounted cavalry, Capt Derringes Battalion 500 and Major Keeler battalion and other units composed a fine fighting force.

Another phase of the history of Droop Mountain is of special interest. We reason from analogy and from pre-historic evidence that Droop Mountain has been a battle-field of some prehistoric race or by the early Indian tribes

of America. Many wonderful stories are handed down through journals and family records of the Shawnees who were the most remarkable of all the people inhabiting the country west of the Allegheny. In 1682 they fell under the rule of the six nations and existed in various branches. We find excavations at the foot of Droop Mountain where thousands of tons of rough flints have been removed.

At one time this has been a great military camping ground for the warriors of the forest. Many legends are told by people who lived on Droop Mountain and handed down for younger generations.

A young Union Officer who rode a beautiful sorrel horse was killed while riding fast around a large tree. The frightened riderless horse ran around the tree several times before it was stopped. It was said by people of that battle they could hear the rapid running of that frightened horse around that tree. <sup>on the Anniversary of that battle</sup> A most pathetic scene occurred at that battle. After the battle a squad of soldiers was detailed to gather up the dead and wounded. Among the number thus detailed was Andrew J. Short of Company F. West Virginia Infantry. They were working in the night and Short discovered a dead soldier and took hold of his body to remove him to the place they were bringing the dead and wounded together. He felt a crooked finger on the dead soldier's hand and the size and feel of the man convinced Short that it was his brother John. He called for some one to bring a light, saying that he had found his brother,

and when they got the light he found for a certainty that the man really was his own brother. In relating the incident to Dr. W. P. Newton many years after the battle, he said that he took his brother by the hand and recognized some peculiarity by which he knew this to be the lifeless body of his brother. This is an incident so rare that nothing similar has ever to our knowledge been recorded in the annals of warfare.

*Reuben L. Sprague*

Inventory of Materials

Topic: History of Pocahontas Co. W. Va.

Title:

Pocahontas County in the Civil War.

Author:

Wm. F. Yeager

Date submitted: \_\_\_\_\_

Length: 1100 words

Editor: \_\_\_\_\_

Status:

Complete

Contents: Complete account of  
Pocahontas County in the Civil War.  
Gives names of officers & companies formed,  
engagements fought, battle of Rich Mountain,  
General R. E. Lee in W. Va.

Source:

Source given

Consultant:

Reliability: -

File: \_\_\_\_\_

Folder: \_\_\_\_\_



Inventory of Materials

Topic: History of W. Va.

Title:

Pocahontas County in the Civil War.

Author:

Ellis F. Yeager

Date submitted: \_\_\_\_\_

Length: 1100 words

Editor: \_\_\_\_\_

Status:

Complete

Contents: Complete account of  
Pocahontas County in the Civil War.  
Gives names of officers & companies formed,  
engagements fought, battle of Rich Mountain,  
General R. E. Lee in W. Va.

Source:

Source given

Consultant:

Reliability: -

File: \_\_\_\_\_

Folder: \_\_\_\_\_

*William F. Yeager*

*H.C.2*

## POCAHONTAS COUNTY IN THE CIVIL WAR

In the year 1861 the clouds of War hung over our Country; their deep density hung over Virginia which at that time included West Virginia. Civil commotion shook the grand old Commonwealth.

Everywhere they enlisted in their native state; from the tide washed shores, from the midland counties and from the rock ribbed Alleghenies, long lines of brave soldiers marched forth to battle and die upon a hundred crimson fields. Among them were many of the descendents of the first pioneers of Pocahontas County who a century before had struggled with the fierce and relentless barbarians and had at last driven him from the country in which they had founded their homes, where the soldiers of a later day were born and reared.

When the tocsin of War sounded throughout their native mountains volunteering began. Andrew G. McKeel repaired to the Little Levels and organized the first company. This was early in the spring of 1861. A requisition was made for arms and they were shipped from Richmond, but were never received and the company disbanded in the fall of that same year.

Captain D. A. Stofer mustered a company at Huntersville, went south and with it was attached to the 31st Virginia Infantry.

H. B. 2

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The 2nd, 3rd, and 8th West Virginia Mounted Infantry Regiments were on the right of the turnpike out of sight about two miles from the base of Droop Mountain. The 28th Ohio Infantry with one company of the 14th Pennsylvania Cavalry (about 1200 men in all) were sent on a long detour to the right via Lobelia to come over the Jacox road and take the Confederates on the left flank. This movement started about 5:00 A. M. and due to conditions of the roads, did not complete the march until 1:45 P.M.

The position of the Southerners was as follows: On the river road, Edgar's Battalion; on the brow of the mountain facing the Union troops from right and left, 22nd Virginia Cavalry under Colonel Patton; 19th Virginia Cavalry under Co. Cochran; Dorricks Battalion of Infantry, Jackson's batteries; Major Blessing with 6 companies of the 23rd Battalion was placed on the Lobelia-Jacox road covering the left flank. The right flank was protected by a steep mountain.

About 1:45 P. M. November 6th, 1863, the flanking party that had been sent via Lobelia reached the Confederate lines and immediately attacked. The 2nd, 3rd, and 8th Regiments immediately started a direct attack up the face of Droop Mountain. They joined force with the flanking party, and drove the Confederates back toward Lewisburg. Due to the road being narrow the Confederates were in confusion--Cavalry and Infantry all mixed up together.

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Inventory of Materials  
11  
Beverly UNDER ARTILLERY FIRE.

By Thomas J. Arnold, Elkins, W. Va.

History  
Randolph Co

An expedition that proved disastrous to the Confederates, and likewise for some who were not, was that connected with the occupation of Beverly, Va., now West Virginia, during the War between the States.

At the time of the Imboden raid through Western Virginia (April, 1863), Gen. William L. Jackson, who accompanied Imboden, casually remarked while in Beverly that he was coming back there to spend the 4th of July. Of course, no one took the remark seriously. Although it was commonly repeated afterwards, as well to the Federal commander as others, it passed unheeded. Sure enough, on the third day of July, a Confederate force unexpectedly appeared south of and in the vicinity of Beverly, under the command of Gen. William L. Jackson, who dispatched a detachment under Maj. J. B. Lady on the road leading northward, west of the river to its intersection with the road leading to Buckhannon, in order to cut off retreat in that direction. He having previously dispatched another detachment under the command of Col. A. C. Dunn, by a country road, eastward of the main road, with orders to occupy the road leading to Philippi, northward of Beverly, thus cutting off retreat in that direction. He planted his artillery on the slope of the hill, about one and one-half miles southwest of Beverly, and opened fire on the Federals, who were hurriedly gathered within their fortification. The Confederate guns were of small caliber, and, probably due to inferior ammunition, most of the shells fell short, landing in Beverly.

Col. Thomas M. Harris, of the 10th Virginia (Federal) Regiment, and who at a later period attained unenviable notoriety, as a member of the military court that tried and convicted Mrs. Surratt and sent her to the scaffold, was in command of the Federals. Guards were stationed on all the roads leading from Beverly; and no one--man, woman, or child--was permitted to pass these guards; hence all civilians were confined to the limits of the town and were thereby subjected to the fire of the Confederate artillery. Although this firing continued for a considerable part of two days, no citizens were injured, and but few houses were struck by shells.

It has always been the understanding, which is probably correct, that the detachment Jackson sent to approach Beverly from the north and open the attack, had in the course of their march found a supply of apple brandy; and the detachment became so intoxicated, that they lost sight of and interest in the undertaking. Jackson waited impatiently throughout the first day for the officer in command of this detachment to make the attack, as pre-arranged; the second day he was still expecting it every moment, but received no intelligence. Along toward noon there appeared, advancing up the valley, west of the river, an army of mounted men, deployed to sweep everything before them. It was Averill's full brigade of Federal cavalry. It was a formidable force. There was not one thing left for Jackson to do--get out as rapidly as possible or be overwhelmed. This he proceeded to do, and accomplished with such skill that he escaped with but slight loss.

Gen. William L. Jackson, while on the bench prior to the war, had held a term of court in Beverly, knew many of the

out so that the line could be maintained. The Southern troops were living off of the country and the people were insisting that aid be sent to them.

On October 26th, Gen Benjamin Kelly, U. S. Army ordered General Averell, who at that time was stationed at Beverly, West Virginia, to move to Lewisburg and capture or drive away any Confederate forces stationed in that vicinity. Also to join forces with General Duffie who left Charleston November 3rd, 1863 at 6:00 A.M. for Lewisburg. After a junction of the two forces, they were to move to Union, W. Va. and thence to Virginia and Tennessee R.R., at Dublin Station and destroy the railroad bridge over New River.

General Averell moved on the 1st day of November and immediately contacted gorilla bands and small detachments of Confederate troops. The forces of Gen. Averell were able to push back all resistance and on November 5th, reached the town of Hillsboro, West Virginia, about 3 miles from Droop Mountain and 33 miles from Lewisburg. The Union forces were advised that General Duffie would not reach Lewisburg, until November 7th so didn't attack until the morning of November 6th, 1863.

The plan of attack by the Union troops was as follows: 14th Pennsylvania Cavalry were placed near the Locust Creek bridge in sight of the Confederate lines, and kept moving around giving the appearance of starting towards the Southern lines.

Keepers battery was placed on the hill above Beards Mill, and immediately opened fire on the Confederate batteries on top of Droop Mountain about 8:00 A. M. Eivon's battery was placed to the left of the turnpike between Hillsboro and Droop. Gibson's battalion and the famous 10th W. Va. Infantry was held in readiness on the pike at Hillsboro.